

OPD BRIEF BANK

Update for the Montana Public Defender Commission

January 9, 2009

The Office of the State Public Defender (OPD) has established an on-line brief bank, which is now in operation at <http://www.montanaprobono.net/defender/>.

The brief bank (OPDBB) is currently accessible to all OPD staff defenders and will soon be available to all contract attorneys who have an MOU on file with the OPD Central Office.

In order to use the OPDBB a user must first register by entering an email address and a password. The OPD Central Office double checks the user's current status with OPD and then notifies the user whether the user has been approved. Once approved, a user may access this resource from any desktop by entering the above link into the URL.

The brief bank resource data is monitored by a volunteer committee of seven OPD staff attorneys and two private attorneys.

OPD BRIEF BANK COMMITTEE

OPD STAFF ATTORNEYS: Eric Olson (Central Office), Jordan Kilby (Missoula), Johnna Rizza (student intern), Eric Bunn (Billings), Jenny Kaleczyc (Appellate Defender), Lawrence Lafountain (Great Falls), and Christina Larsen (Kalispell).

MOU-APPROVED PRIVATE, CONTRACT COUNSEL: Nancy Schwartz (Billings), Colin Stephens (Missoula).

Technical Administration for the brief bank is provided by Liz Keith of *Probono.net*, a company operating out of California. Technical questions are forwarded to Ms. Keith through Eric Olson, Sandra Law, or Cathy Doyle.

Eric Olson and Jordan Kilby monitor the resource bank on a regular basis.

The resource data base currently consists of legal memoranda and briefs written and filed in justice, municipal, district, and supreme courts of Montana. The briefs are first emailed to the screening committee which reviews the briefs, identifies relevant topical areas in which to index the briefs, summarizes the briefs, and ultimately uploads the briefs into the OPDBB for general reference and usage.

Briefs are stored on the bank by reference to a relevant topical field (e.g., "probable cause," "traffic stop") as well as to the general areas of criminal practice applicable to the brief (e.g., pretrial, post-trial, appellate, etc.).

Briefs are also identified by defendant's name, by year, and by OPD region.

The Brief Bank Committee is in the process of adding additional resource material to the OPDBB including DUI testing standards, sex offender evaluation information, and other valuable reference material.

Any attorney wishing to contribute memoranda or briefs to the OPDBB may do so by emailing an electronic copy of the document to one of the OPDBB Committee Members.